



August 2012

News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

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Bob Boyd, CCE, PSP, CEP
- Awards and Elections Chair
Becky Spencer, CCC

President's Message

Members,

..... PASSION

As I start the new administrative year for our Upcountry Section I would like to thank all the officers and participants who dedicated their time and efforts to help arrange our meetings, locate interesting presenters or tours, send out meeting flyers, arrange food and drinks, keep the books and taxes straight, manage the web site, update and send out the monthly newsletters, judge and award our scholarship program, manage the elections, supporting AACEI certification programs, and keep current with corporate AACEI requirements to make our Section work. There are even more things involved in the operation of our Section, but I think you get the picture. It takes a lot of individuals to pull off all the duties and responsibilities. The officers are grateful for all the participants who have donated their time and energy in the past, and likewise, this year we will need the same level of dedication and energy to conduct business and to serve our membership and community. I look forward to the upcoming year and solicit your contributions.

With that being said, I would like to encourage each of you to find your passion and get involved! When you have a passionate involvement in something, you know it because, without even thinking about it, you share it with others and they notice it as well. And before you know it, you have made a difference! Maybe it is to serve the group in some support role, as detailed above. Maybe it is to share your expertise and knowledge in a particular area of cost, schedule and estimating by presenting at one of our monthly meetings. Maybe it is just to help spread the word about our group within your company and encourage participation. The bottom line is that our Section can always use your ideas, support and energy to become even better at serving the needs of our professional vocation and our communities.

Please feel free to share your thoughts with any of our officers and let us know if you desire to become more involved with our Section..

Sincerely, Eric Marcantoni

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Section Announcements

Certification!!

AACEI offers 6 certifications and is in the process of Beta testing a 7th.

1. Certified Cost Technician (CCT)
2. Certified Cost Consultant (CCC) / Certified Cost Engineer (CCE)
3. Planning and Scheduling Professional Certification (PSP)
4. Earned Value Professional Certification (EVP)
5. Certified Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC)
6. Certified Estimating Professional (CEP)
- 7. Decision & Risk Management Professional (DRMP) Certification (NEW)**

After years of discussing, planning and developing, AACE International has decided to move to Computer Based Testing (CBT) for the certification exams. Beta testing of CBT exams were conducted in July at US locations and is also planned for September at international locations. Effective January 1, 2013, CBT will be the standard delivery of all AACE International exams. Certification fees will be slightly increased for CBT certification exams. CBT exams will be held at a Kryterion locations.

For descriptions and requirements regarding each of these certifications go to the AACEI web page (<http://www.aacei.org/educ/cert>). And for educational literature to help you with these exams, visit the AACE Online Bookstore (<http://www.aacei.org/technical/ppg.shtml>) where you can order Professional Practice Guides, Recommended Practices and other AACEI merchandise.

In recognition for those Section members that have AACEI certifications, we will now have an Honors Roll. The following Section members hold certifications and can be considered Subject Matter Experts, available to help you if you have any questions.

HONORS ROLL

| <i>CCE / CCC</i> | <i>PSP</i> | <i>CEP</i> | <i>EVP</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chris Swanson | Donald McDonald | Robert Boyd | Doug Findley |
| Donald McDonald | Robert Boyd | Jeff Bannister | Eric Marcantoni |
| Robert Boyd | Doug Findley | Stan Ellzey | Manan Vakil |
| Doug Findley | | | |
| Becky Spencer | | | |
| Glen Joseph Colaco | | | |
| CFCC | | | |
| Doug Findley | | | |

Please contact Stan Ellzey (stanellzey@charter.net) if you have any questions or need assistance regarding any of the certifications or workshops mentioned above.



Our Section hosted certification exams for 2 persons in June. The next certification exams are currently scheduled for:

December 8, 2012 – Location of test is Greenville, SC

July 21, 2012 – Location of test is Greenville, SC

Deadline to sign up for a certification exam is 60 days prior to the above test dates. If you want to take the test in Greenville, please contact AACEI, one of our officers or our Certification chairperson.

AACE International's Meetings and Conferences!!

Over 770 AACEI members attended the annual conference in Dallas, Texas. Over 30 countries were represented, including the US and Canada.

Start planning to attend AACEI's 57th annual meeting in Washington, DC. Early registration ends June 7th. The theme of this conference is "TCM Blossoms in DC". It will be held from July 1st thru July 3rd. If you were considering making a presentation at this conference, an abstract of your technical paper is due 31 August 2012. See information at AACEI's website.

NEWS FLASH..... The Upcountry South Carolina Section recognized at AACE Annual Meeting with the Bronze Award

MORGANTOWN, WV, June, 21, 2012 – AACE International is pleased to announce that the **Upcountry South Carolina Section** will be recognized during the Awards and Installation Luncheon on July 10, 2012, at its Annual Meeting with the **Bronze Award**.

A record number of sections competed in the 2012 Section Recognition Awards Competition. AACE's Regional Directors, Vice President-Regions, and Headquarters staff spent three sessions grading the submittals from twenty four sections.

The following is a complete list of sections that are also slated to be recognized during the Annual Meeting:

Platinum Award (1500+ points)

- Atlanta Section
- Chinook Calgary Section
- Houston Gulf Coast Section
- National Capital Section
- San Francisco Bay Area Section
- Southern California Section



AAACE Upcountry South Carolina Section

Clemson, Greenville, Spartanburg & Surrounding Areas



Gold Award (1000-1499 points)

- Alaska Section
- Arabian Gulf Section
- Arizona Section
- Central Savannah River Area Section
- Chicago Midwest Section
- New Jersey Section
- Seattle Section
- Southwest Ohio Section
- St. Louis Section
- United Arab Emirates Section

Silver Award (700-999 points)

- Aurora Edmonton Section
- Connecticut Nutmeg Section
- Great Lakes Section
- Indiana Hoosier Section
- Rattlesnake Mountain Section

Bronze Award (400-699 points)

- Baltimore Metro Section
- Idaho Snake River Section
- **Upcountry South Carolina Section**

“We were very excited to have the record number of entries to this year’s Section Recognition Competition,” said Vice President-Regions Julie Owen CCC PSP. “It is always really interesting to learn how different sections within AAACE hold meetings and other activities during the year. One section, Alaska, has taken the initiative to video each of their meetings so that members who are unable to attend are able to still learn from the technical presentations. Others, like Arabian Gulf, Central Savannah River Area, Chinook-Calgary, San Francisco Bay Area, and Southern California are doing really extensive seminar and training programs for their members. It is also remarkable to see that the Alaska Section holds meetings year-round and Southwest Ohio held 18 meetings during the past year,” Owen stated.

The Upcountry South Carolina Section conducted a series of differing monthly meeting events, including a tour of the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (ICAR), Social/Team Building events. The Section also sponsored an AAACEI Matching Fund Scholarship Program for a deserving student.

“Each year, we have increased the level of participation in the Section Recognition Awards. We truly enjoy seeing the differences and similarities of our sections participating in this program while looking to future years and greater participation,” Owen concluded.

To compete in the Section Recognition Competition, sections are required to complete an entry form and provide supporting data for each area they are submitting for points. The entry form and supporting data is then uploaded by the Section to the AAACE Forums where it is reviewed and graded by a team of Regional Directors, Vice President-Regions, and a member of the Headquarters staff. A Regional Director does not grade an entry from his or her region. The competition begins on June 1 of the previous year and concludes May 31 of the current year.



UpCountry South Carolina Section's Website!!

Please visit our web site that is being maintained by Becky Spencer. It contains some job postings for those of you that are unemployed. Feel free to provide feedback to Becky or Eric Marcantoni on comments/ideas that you believe would enhance the website.

<http://upcountry-aacei.org/welcome.html>

Section News!!

Board meeting held in July to discuss potential presenters for the 2012/2013 year. Decision was also made to offer 2 scholarships in 2013. As a reminder, 2 scholarships were awarded in 2012, although this Section contributed \$1,000 to only to 1 of the 2 Clemson students that received awards from AACEI.

Only 2 persons showed up for the June social event at Fluor Field to watch the Greenville Drive take on the Charleston River Dogs. No meeting was planned for in July.

The section meeting in August had a great turn-out with 15 persons attending.

September's meeting will be a presentation of 2 papers presented at the AACEI Annual Convention. Exact date plus a calendar of our future meetings is shown at the end of this newsletter.



August 2012 UpCountry SC Section Meeting Recap

The UpCountry SC Section meeting was held on August 14, 2012 at Jacobs' Office. Our guest speaker was Mr. David Neale. He currently works in Fluor's Corporate Claims Group as a scheduling expert. He has been with Fluor since 1990, and has been on multiple field assignments and in a Project Controls Manager role for the last 13 years. David has over 22 years of project controls experience.

David's presentation covered how to setup projects, identifying successes and things to avoid. His first topic was "Project Launch" and how it must include alignment. Alignment involves four components

1. Client (get agreement on the Project)
2. Tools (agreement on metrics, controls, systems, and training)
3. Team (agreement on roles and responsibilities)
4. Management (agreement with reporting, authorizations and executive sponsorship)

David spoke on Project Execution and Systems Integration Plan and emphasized it must be a team function in order to achieve successful results. Communication is the key! Systems Integration Plan has four main functions:

1. Project Controls
2. Project Finance
3. Procurement & Contracts
4. Engineering

The next topic David discussed was "Project Set Up". Establishing a WBS and CBS and deciding how you are going to slice and dice up the elephant. He also noted that all integrated systems must be able to speak together.

After the WBS structure has been setup, you can now schedule to the level of desired control. David said "Keep it simple. Start from top to bottom, then left to right, and only add details when you know the details". The planner or CTL needs to define the schedule levels. The Planner has to estimate schedule durations, establish the critical paths through logical ties and resource load the schedule to validate durations. David defines planners as employees who work back to front with other team members whereas, schedulers are employees that just use the software, run reports, etc.

David saved the most important till the end "Change Management". He explained change is constant and expected and when a change is identified it must be dealt with immediately (within 24 hours). He holds everyone on the project team responsible for identifying changes/deviations. He encourages weekly meetings with contractors and clients and these projects are usually more successful. He stated "The best communication tool on a project is Change Management".

He identified 4 categories of deviations:

1. Scope change
2. Budget Shift
3. Project Development
4. Trend Forecast -- Always forecast reality!!!!

This concluded the presentation and Eric Marcantoni thanked David for an interesting and informative presentation. Copies are available upon request.

David Neale & Eric Marcantoni





2012/13 Meeting Schedule for AACE UpCountry SC Section

| <i>Description</i> | <i>Day of Week</i> | <i>Date(s)</i> | <i>Presenter & Topic</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 3 rd Thursday | 21 June 2012 | Drive Baseball Game Greenville Drive vs. Charleston River Dogs |
| UCSC Social Meeting | 3 rd Tuesday | 17 July 2012 | Cancelled |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 14 Aug 2012 | David Neale – Fluor Project Set-up |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 11 Sep 2012 | R Boyd/E Marcantoni – Fluor AACE Conference Presentations |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 09 Oct 2012 | Bert Stuck – GE |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 13 Nov 2012 | TBD |
| UCSC Social Meeting | TBD | ?? Dec 2012 | Social Gathering |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 3 rd Tuesday | 15 Jan 2013 | Marlene Hyde |
| UCSC Social Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 12 Feb 2013 | Jay Toadvine |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 12 Mar 2013 | TBD |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 09 Apr 2013 | TBD |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 14 May 2013 | TBD |
| UCSC Social Meeting | 2 nd Thursday | 11 Jun 2013 | TBD |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | TBD | TBD | Tour of GE's Facility |
| UCSC Dinner Meeting | TBD | TBD | Future Presentation on How to Prepare for the CCE exam |
| USC Dinner Meeting | TBD | TBD | Laurens Electric – O&M and Outage Planning |